



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,593	12/03/2004	Jacques Bauden	2018-0133PUS1	8559
2292	7590	11/01/2007	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			KASTLER, SCOTT R	
PO BOX 747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			1793	
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/01/2007		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/516,593	BAUDEN, JACQUES
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Scott Kastler	1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 8 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 5 and 7 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/3/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Means-Plus-Function Language in the Claims

The instant claims contain the following terms, written in “means-plus-function” language, and have been interpreted as follows:

1. “means (23, 24) of driving in movement at least one steel wire or ribbon”, defined in the specification at page 5 as any conventional (normal) driving means and has therefore not been accorded any special means plus function status.
2. “means (22) of adjusting”, defined in the specification at page 6 as a closure valve.
3. “means (7-9, 13, 16) of spraying”, defined in the specification at page 6 as a means comprising air supply conduits, a distribution conduit and a guide plate.
4. “deflecting means” defined in the specification at page 7 as covers and deflectors.
5. “means of supplying pressurized gas bubbles”, defined in the specification at page 6 as substantially identical to the above “means of spraying”.
6. “means for forced guidance” defined at page 6 of the specification as guide plates.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hemsath et al. Hemsath et al teaches a device for cooling a workpiece which would operate on steel wires or ribbons, including conventional driving means (14) a vessel (18) including a plurality of

successive curtains of rising cooling water curtains which contact the workpiece to be cooled with a turbulent flow of gas bubbles and cooling water (see the claims for example) thereby showing all aspects of the above claims since the manner or method of use of the claimed apparatus (for cooling wire or ribbon) cannot be relied upon to fairly further limit claims to the apparatus itself. See MPEP 2114.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamio et al. Kamio et al teaches a device for cooling workpieces including a drive means (9 for example), a vessel (4) containing cooling liquid with outlets for successive curtains of liquid (see figs 4 and 15 for example) which contact the workpiece turbulently with means below the workpiece in the vessel for supplying and spraying the cooling liquid, and thereby showing all aspects of the above claims since the manner or method of use of the claimed device (for cooling wire or ribbon) cannot be relied upon to fairly further distinguish claims to the apparatus itself. See MPEP 2114.

Allowable Subject Matter

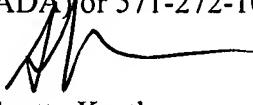
Claims 5 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (571) 272-1243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Scott Kastler
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1793

sk